(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Minting of new Rs. 10 coin will depend on the indent from the Reserve Bank of India. There is no reported shortage of 25 and 50 paise coins.

(c) and (d) The new coins of Rs. 10 will be bi-metallic and are expected to be lifted by the Reserve Bank of India for circulation during 2006-2007.

Interest Free Banking

†2870. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving a serious thought to the proposal of interest free banking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loans for agricultural products in NER

2871. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan for granting loans to the farmers for agricultural products in the NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.